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(11) **EP 0 713 217 A2**

(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(43) Date of publication:
22.05.1996 Bulletin 1996/21

(51) Int Cl.⁶: **G11B 7/24**

(21) Application number: **95308170.0**

(22) Date of filing: **15.11.1995**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT DE ES FR GB IT NL

(30) Priority: **16.11.1994 JP 306971/94**

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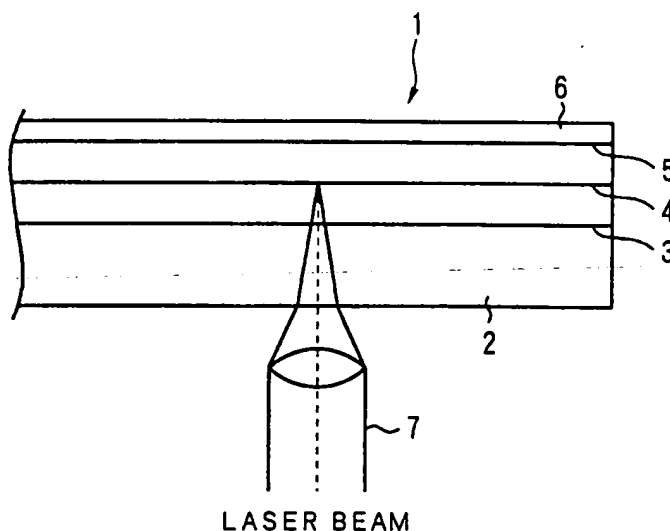
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(54) **Optical disks and reproduction thereof**

(57) When an optical disk having a plurality of recording layers is loaded, in which layer-number data is recorded on the recording layer nearest to the signal reading plane and layer I.D. data is recorded on each recording layer, a pickup reads the data recorded on each recording layer. A focus error signal is produced

by a quartered detector by using return light from the pickup. A focus search drive circuit generates a focus drive signal. When focalization on a desired recording layer is established during focus search by the focus search drive circuit, the focus search drive circuit is stopped.

Fig. 1



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